

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO SHERIDAN AND THE BIGHORN MOUNTAINS, WYOMING

LOCATION: Sheridan is located in north-central Wyoming, just east of the Bighorn Mountains. The city is situated on the high plains, at an elevation of some 3,800 feet above sea level. The Bighorns, to the west, rise to an elevation of 13,175 feet, and strongly affect the weather and climate of Sheridan.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:14	10:24	11:54	13:28	14:49	15:32	15:14	14:05	12:35	11:02	9:38	8:53
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:11	6:18	7:18	8:05	9:00	10:19	11:26	10:26	7:55	6:44	5:02	4:44
AREA OF BLUE SKY	35%	36%	35%	36%	38%	46%	59%	58%	52%	46%	38%	37%
LOW FOR MONTH	-16 °	-12 °	-3 °	15 °	27 °	37 °	44 °	42 °	29 °	17 °	-1 °	-11 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	8 °	13 °	21 °	31 °	40 °	48 °	54 °	52 °	42 °	32 °	20 °	12 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	33 °	38 °	45 °	57 °	66 °	76 °	86 °	85 °	73 °	61 °	46 °	36 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	57 °	59 °	67 °	78 °	86 °	93 °	100 °	98 °	93 °	83 °	69 °	60 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	97%	97%	90%	62%	17%	1%	0%	0%	11%	50%	91%	97%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	9%	35%	35%	8%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	63%	60%	51%	44%	46%	44%	33%	30%	38%	45%	59%	64%
DRY DAYS	72%	70%	66%	63%	61%	64%	75%	79%	75%	76%	73%	72%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	93%	93%	88%	84%	82%	83%	92%	93%	89%	89%	92%	93%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.13	0.12	0.19	0.33	0.42	0.37	0.19	0.13	0.23	0.19	0.14	0.11
LIKELY SNOWFALL	10.6"	9.5"	11.7"	9.5"	1.7"	0.1"	0.0"	0.0"	1.1"	4.6"	8.5"	10.0"
SNOWY DAYS	28%	30%	34%	23%	5%	0%	0%	0%	3%	12%	24%	28%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	3%	15%	32%	31%	23%	8%	1%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	2%	3%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%	2%	2%

COMMENTS: The area has a high-plains version of the mid-latitude four-season year. Bright sunshine occurs on 63% of the year's daylight hours, ranging from a low of 52% in November to a high of 75% in July. The low temperature for the year will be near -23° some windless winter sunrise, while the high will be around 101° some sunny summer afternoon. Precipitation is light, and peaks in May. A typical summer afternoon will be very sunny, arid, and hot. The summer afternoon thunderstorms do not always bring rain. Summer nights are cool. A typical winter afternoon will be moderately sunny, humid, and cold. One day in three will stay below freezing. Winter nights are extremely cold, with one night in five dropping below zero. Winter snows tend to be dry and to blow off the roads easily. Those of March and April are wetter, and tend to close the roads. The *chinook* is a strong, warm, dry, downslope wind common to the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains. During the *chinook*, temperatures will rise many tens of degrees in as many minutes. The combination of increasing temperatures and very low humidities tends to both melt and evaporate large quantities of snow--sometimes as much as a foot or more per hour.